

Gabrielle Allan

From: sysadmin@interlated.com.au on behalf of Gardens of Stone <sysadmin@interlated.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 10 October 2023 11:03 AM
To: Gabrielle Allan
Cc: jrobens@interlated.com.au; keith.muir6@bigpond.com
Subject: Angus Place mod 8 and West Coal Services mod 5 submission

I have made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

John Robens
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84 foster st
Leichhardt, NSW. 2040

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

I have visited the Cox River many times. I understand the importance of clean drinking water. I have visited the Gardens of Stone. I love bushwalking around the entire area. There are amazing places to discover. None of these places will recover if damaged. The boys love playing in streams and exploring the area.

I don't feel that we have had long enough to consider this proposal.

Are there technical thresholds on what constitutes a "modification". The increased water discharge appears 'large'. What impact on salinity in rivers and our drinking water constitutes 'minor' and satisfies the criterion for a modification? As a bushwalker who appreciates the scenic beauty of these areas rather than as a miner, these changes appear to be significant. I am at a technical disadvantage in quantifying these impacts, and the impacts while an extension of existing practice add up to a major impact on the landscape for me. I don't feel that this should be assessed as a modification.

The cumulative impacts of these proposals is a problem. Various proposals chip away at the values of an area, until finally extractive proposals can be waved through as the area has been degraded to a moonscape. This has not yet happened here, although there is a risk that other significant proposals to extract from this area will result in what should be a beautiful place for our children to explore will be totally destroyed.

Wetlands keep the plateau alive. Pumping out 10ML/day is going to have a significant impact on the life supporting systems in the area. This amount of water does not get 'created' by the mine, but draws down from the surrounding areas. This is a massive amount of water that won't be available to help ecosystems survive extended dry periods. Even in wet times, I've seen swamps that have collapsed due to changes in water tables and they do not appear to ever recover.

Our water supply should be put at risk to support short term extraction. The mess that is at Wallerawang, the Wolgan, Wollangambe and in other locations should be the priority. We have demonstrated that this extraction is unnecessary and the priority should now be to minimise the damage that may be caused in the future by the extractive choices we made in the past. We should not pass this burden down generations, and emplacements at Clarence, ash dams at Wallerawang, polluted creeks such as Wangcol, or even the Grose are going to cause greater problems as time goes on if not cleaned up urgently. Clean up the existing messes rather than adding to them. Has this proposal been referred to the Commonwealth Government for assessment under the EPBC Act? Please ensure that past messes caused by Centennial are cleaned up. I have seen the collapse of the emplacement at Clarence and it is disturbing. It is disturbing that there is a giant wall of coal that has the potential to pollute otherwise pristine rivers for centuries. Rivers which thousands of people enjoy every year, and should support communities. Please ensure that all water is fully treated at the Cox river. Please ensure that unlined ash dams are remediated, capped, sealed or otherwise made 100% safe for all future.

I cannot see what recourse can be made for already damaged rock formations, cliff lines and swamps? Investigating how the promises made in past 'modifications' matches the current state and creating plans to 'make good' any gaps should be the current priority. It does not seem appropriate that further impacts should be approved until a gap analysis of the past has been completed and ensure that any difference in outcomes is first rectified.

The Angus Place mine extension and modification 5 should be considered together, along with cumulative impacts and a holistic plan to leave the mining areas in at least the state promised by the last 50 years of mining proposals. Water extraction should not exceed the capacity of treatment. Drinking water should not be polluted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'V' or 'M' shape with a horizontal line extending to the right.